

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

Q=SA [REDACTED]

A= [REDACTED]

Q: Uh, today's date is May 9, 2018. Time now is 5:33 pm. Uh, on the phone with me right now is [REDACTED], uh, a former employee of Cooke Aquaculture. [REDACTED] are you aware that you're being recorded right now?

A: Uh, yes sir I am.

Q: Are you in agreement with that?

A: I am.

Q: Great. Okay so basically, uh, I'm not gonna take up a lot of your time [REDACTED]. Uh, basically what I wanna cover is the fish count area. Um, and the reason being is that I have some questions and, uh, I'm tryin' to figure out how exactly this system worked. 'Cause I - I haven't talked to a lot of the company people yet so I just - you were there - I just wanna pick your brain about that. Um, explain to me if you can how - how this happened. The - I saw that they were pulling fish up and I've seen pictures of guys just sitting there with a clicker clicking on it. Eh, how are they recording them off of that clicker? Did you see that happening?

A: Um, yes as far as I, uh, as far as I can remember, um, and when I was involved, uh, in the counting, uh, which was very limited. Um, uh, we were counting fish that went by with the clicker. Once, uh, once we finish pumping or that, um, that available time to pump fish ended and we had our count, that was then reported to, um, [REDACTED]. Uh, a- that - the number off the clicker was reported to [REDACTED], um, and, uh, as far as that goes a- after that I'm not aware of where it went.

Q: Okay when you say it was reported to [REDACTED], was [REDACTED] actually there or how did the reporting to him go?

A: Uh, he was there.

Q: Okay.

46
47 A: Uh, [REDACTED] was on site - [REDACTED] was on site for most if not all of that operation, um,
48 and so it was verbally reported, uh, as a count number to [REDACTED].
49
50 Q: Okay. So let's talk about your position when you were there. Were you
51 actually a guy with a clicker?
52
53 A: Um, at one point I was yes.
54
55 Q: Okay...
56
57 A: I was...
58
59 Q: Go ahead, sorry.
60
61 A: My, uh, my counting was, uh, pretty limited. Um, like I had stated before, uh,
62 most of my time was spent, um, managing the crew and the remaining farms,
63 um, uh, shortly after the incident. Uh, but at one point, uh, I did count, um, I
64 did count some fish that were going onto the Harvester boat and, uh, again I -
65 I verbally reported the number that we counted to [REDACTED].
66
67 Q: Okay. And we're talk- when I - I use the term clicker for some weird reason
68 'cause it makes a click sound but we're talking about a little handheld counter
69 that you push a button and it changes the number each time, is that correct?
70
71 A: That's exactly right, uh...
72
73 Q: Okay.
74
75 A: Yep.
76
77 Q: Okay.
78
79 A: Just like, um, yep. Just a little clicker there.
80
81 Q: I just didn't wanna make it confusing. I sound like my grandmother and the
82 remote control. Give me the clicker. Uh, uh, so do - can you think of anybody
83 else that was doing that as well?
84
85 A: Um, I know that, uh, there was a gentleman that was in the position of
86 Harvest, uh, Supervisor I believe was the official title. Um, and he was on site,
87 uh, during the events. Um, I believe he had put in his notice prior to it but
88 stuck around, um, to help out. Uh, again, um, I'm not 100 % on that. I - I - I
89 just - I - I believe that was the case. Um, and he was involved with a lot of
90 operations on the Harvester during that time as well as counting and helping

91 pump the fish. Um, his name, uh, his last name eludes me. Uh, I know it was
92 ([REDACTED]). Um, I'm sure you could get that information if needed too but [REDACTED]
93 was in the role of Harvest Supervisor during that time
94

95 Q: So at the time was [REDACTED] - does [REDACTED] work for the actual boat the Harvester? Or
96 does [REDACTED] work for...

97
98 A: No...

99
100 Q: ...Cooke?

101
102 A: [REDACTED] was a Cooke employee.

103
104 Q: Okay Cooke employee. Thank you. Okay. And [REDACTED] had already given his, uh,
105 notice but stuck around because of the accident, is that correct?
106

107 A: I believe that's the case yes.

108
109 Q: Okay. And do you know, uh, of anybody else that did any of the counting as
110 well?
111

112 A: Um, I don't. Uh, I don't recall.

113
114 Q: Okay.

115
116 A: Um, I'm sure, uh, uh, I'm sure there were but I don't recall anybody in
117 particular. Like I said, uh, um, I was - I was somewhat removed from those
118 operations shortly after the immediate response...
119

120 Q: Okay.

121
122 A: ...so.

123
124 Q: Uh, during your time while you saw ([REDACTED] doing this, was ([REDACTED], uh,
125 writing things down or was he just verbally giving them to, uh, [REDACTED] as
126 you were?
127

128 A: Um, I do not recall [REDACTED] method.

129
130 Q: Okay.

131
132 A: Or how [REDACTED] was reporting.

133
134 Q: Uh, did you talk to anybody else about the fish counts?
135

136 A: Um...

137

138 Q: In terms of how things were going or how - if they were being accurate or

139 inaccurate or if they thought this was efficient meth- things like that?

140

141 A: I had - I spoke with [REDACTED] briefly, uh, because, uh, at the time when I was

142 counting he was also on the vessel. Uh, I spoke with him briefly about it.

143 Other than that I - I didn't speak with anyone else.

144

145 Q: Okay. Was, uh, um, let's talk about when you, uh, the incident which you

146 described earlier in our inter- earlier interview about, uh, giving numbers to,

147 uh, [REDACTED]. And then having him, as you stated in our earlier

148 conversation, substantially alter those numbers. Can you give me just kinda

149 the overview of what happened? While you were - where you were, where [REDACTED]

150 was? The whole thing please?

151

152 A: Eh, um, yes. So, uh, I had counted, um, I had counted fish from a period of

153 pumping out of the cages. Uh, we were recovering, uh, dead fish at that point,

154 um, and counting them. Uh, I - when the pumping was done I reported them to

155 [REDACTED] and at that point I did see, uh, an inflation in numbers. Um, uh, I

156 cannot speak to the exact, um, number, how it was inflated. Um, I can only

157 say that I know that I - I - I know that I witnessed, uh, an inflation in those

158 numbers. Um, unfortunately, uh, my, you know, my recollection of exactly

159 what the number I reported to [REDACTED] and the number [REDACTED] reported I don't recall.

160 Uh, simply because of the time that has passed and it's not something, you

161 know, that I logged or wrote down or anything.

162

163 Q: Of course.

164

165 A: Um, but I - I - I did see that, um, and I'm only - I'm only puttin' that out there

166 because, you know, I wanna be straight forward on everything that I

167 witnessed, um...

168

169 Q: No and I appreciate that, I do. Uh...

170

171 A: Um...

172

173 Q: Go ahead.

174

175 A: But it - it was - it was that one instant, er, that one instance when I saw, um, or

176 when I reported those numbers, I saw [REDACTED] report something that was elevated.

177

178 Q: Um, do you, uh, do you remember what - was [REDACTED] filling out a form? Was [REDACTED]

179 writing it just on a blank piece of paper? What was [REDACTED] filling out to record

180 these numbers?

181
182 A: Um, I, uh, to be honest I do not know what [REDACTED] wa- I - I believe it was a form.
183 Uh, but again I - I don't recall.
184
185 Q: Okay.
186
187 A: Uh, [REDACTED] had, you know, [REDACTED] had a clipboard in [REDACTED] hand and [REDACTED] was writin'
188 things down.
189
190 Q: Okay.
191
192 A: Um, uh, but I - I believe it was - I believe it was a form. I'm not sure.
193
194 Q: Okay. When you were, uh, on the deck, uh, counting these, where was [REDACTED]?
195 Was there an office or something there or? Excuse me I'm gonna shut that off.
196
197 A: That's okay. Uh, no [REDACTED] was on site. Um, so at - at the - at the, um, at the
198 location of the pumping. So on the [REDACTED] was on the - the storage site or on the
199 vessel.
200
201 Q: Okay. So [REDACTED] was right in that area just standing outside with everybody else?
202
203 A: Correct.
204
205 Q: Got it. Okay. Uh, do you, uh, remember what pen you were pulling from at
206 the time? 'Cause that might help me narrow it down.
207
208 A: I don't [REDACTED], no sorry.
209
210 Q: Okay. That's alright. Uh, how 'bout a date? Do you have a rough idea of date?
211
212 A: Um, uh, mmm, let's see it would've been - I'd - I'd ca- I can't speak, uh, to
213 that with any sort of accuracy unfortunately. Uh, uh, my guess would be three
214 days after the event. Um, because initially we were, um, initially we were
215 dealing with, uh, sec- uh, securing the site, um, and trying to keep it in place,
216 um, so that took up most of our time. I believe the actually pumping of, uh,
217 dead fish, um, began approximately two to three days after the actual event.
218
219 Q: Okay. So these were dead fish? These weren't good quality material fish?
220
221 A: No.
222
223 Q: Okay.
224
225 A: Our - our opportunity for good quality, uh, material fish, um, um, was - was

226 very short in the first, you know, the first 48 hours or so of the response. By
227 that time, um, the pens had lost their shape enough so that, um, most of what
228 we were getting was, um, dead fish.

229
230 Q: 'Kay.

231
232 A: Or all of what we were getting were dead fish.

233
234 Q: Okay. Um, when you saw this, uh, as we talked about the alteration of your
235 numbers to, uh, by [REDACTED], did you mention that to any other supervisor
236 and/or management or anybody else?

237
238 A: Uh, I did not, no.

239
240 Q: Okay. Any particular reason?

241
242 A: Um, uh, nope. I felt that it was out of my hands at that point. I did my due
243 diligence. I did my job. I reported my numbers at that point. After that it was,
244 you know...

245
246 Q: Got ya.

247
248 A: ...beyond my responsibility.

249
250 Q: Okay. All right. Um, anything else you can think about, er, think of about that
251 situation?

252
253 A: Um, nope. Uh, there's not. Like I said it was - it, uh, my involvement in the
254 counting was very limited. It was that one time and, um, and that's all I
255 witnessed. Uh, after that, again, I was - I was fairly re- I was pretty much
256 removed from the rest of the recovery, uh, at that point.

257
258 Q: Okay. All right. All right well then, uh, that's all the questions I have. Uh,
259 we'll go off the record now. It's 544 hours.

260
261
262 The transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
263 transcription.

264 Signed _____